

RESOLUTIONS OF THE LEGISLATURE OF MASSACHUSETTS,

PROTESTING

Against the repeal of the laws granting fishing bounty.

FEBRUARY 10, 1857.—Read, and ordered to be printed.

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS.

IN THE YEAR ONE THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED AND FIFTY-SEVEN.

RESOLVES concerning the proposed repeal of the cod fishing bounty.

Whereas propositions have been made in both branches of the Congress of the United States to repeal the existing law granting bounties to crews and vessels engaged in the cod fisheries; and whereas, the aid which has been extended by government to that ill-paid and unremunerative branch of industry, in the form of a bounty, was designed to encourage youths to enter on a sea-faring life, so that the commercial marine and naval service of the country might be provided with men early trained and accustomed to the discipline and privations of a life at sea: Therefore—

Resolved, That the wisdom of this policy has been amply shown by the encouragement it has afforded to large numbers of energetic young men to enter this service, and who, after a brief apprenticeship, have, many of them, passed into the merchant service, and in time of war have carried their country's flag in triumph into every portion of the globe.

Resolved, That the wants of commerce are such as to demand that government should relax no efforts to supply the country with able and experienced seamen, and that no encouragement that has heretofore been extended to induce men to enter upon a sea-faring life ought now to be withdrawn.

Resolved, That the withholding of these bounties at this time would injuriously affect the best interests of commerce, distress a large number of our most valued and deserving citizens, and greatly impair our national strength in a point most vital to our honor and influence among the maritime nations of the earth; and that we earnestly pro-

test against any legislation by Congress which shall disturb the existing system, proved by so many years of trial to be fraught with most happy results.

Resolved, That his excellency the governor be requested to forward a copy of the foregoing preamble and resolves to each of our senators and representatives in Congress.

Passed the House of Representatives February 3, 1857.

CHARLES A. PHELPS, *Speaker*.

Passed the Senate February 4, 1857,

CHARLES W. UPHAM, *President*.

Approved February 5, 1857.

HENRY J. GARDNER.

SECRETARY'S OFFICE,
Boston, February 6, 1857.

A true copy of the original preamble and resolves.

Attest:

FRANCIS DEWITT,
Secretary of the Commonwealth.